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Off the Shelf

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Off the SHELF

The Georgia Library Quarterly reviews books on aspects of life in Georgia and the South, including history, literature, politics, education and genealogy. Materials written by Southern authors or published by regional publishers may also be considered, as well as those on libraries and librarianship.

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NONFICTION

Remembering George W. Perry

by Bill Baab (The Whitefish Press, 2010; ISBN 10: 0-9842050-8-X, \$24.95)



George W. Perry caught the world record-holder largemouth bass weighing 22 pounds 4 ounces. If you are a fisherman with a yen to contradict that claim, make sure you bone up on your bass facts before trying to argue with Bill Baab. It is safe to say that Baab, sports and nature writer for fifty-three years and a national figure in bass fishing, has considered every angle of this big “fish story” for, by his count, the last twenty-five years and whatever needs to be known about the bass has been uncovered. His discussion of bass sub-species and “intergrades” bass will catch the attention of bass fishermen. He has also uncovered a trove of information about George Perry — aviator, entrepreneur, and family man. By the end of the book, readers will be

wishing they could meet this unique character. Each chapter holds the reminiscences of a person who knew George Perry, including the wistful memories of his children, the admiring portraits of his peers, and the grateful thanks from former “frogskins,” (children Perry mentored almost unconsciously and continuously).

Thanks to Perry’s wide interests in fishing, flying and mechanics and Baab’s preservation of his story, this book reveals life in Brunswick, Georgia. Kids could hang out at the airport and “come and go pretty much as they pleased” — a far cry from the security-gated, checked-bags world of aviation we all live in now. This book is recommended for collections focusing on regional history, aviation history, and fishing and can be enjoyed by anyone looking for a nostalgic read on small town Georgia. »»

— Reviewed by **Carol Waggoner-Angleton**
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